

Keep younger children safe when riding

Escape artists

There are no escape-proof car seats. Children may try to undo buckles and wiggle out of harnesses or booster seats. There are things you can do to help your child stay buckled.



Harness struggles

Keep the harness snug and the chest clip at armpit level. A loose harness will not keep your child safe in a crash. It also makes it easier for children to wiggle out of the car seat.

Look for a car seat that has a chest clip that is hard for your child to undo. Many children learn how to move or undo the chest clip on the harness. Contact your car seat manufacturer for advice.

Resources

Car seat resources and information:

childrenswi.org/carseats

Car seat installation and check events:

safekidswi.org/events

Email: carseatwi@childrenswi.org

Phone: (855) 224-3692

Booster seat struggles

If your child is not able to sit correctly in a booster seat, this may mean the booster seat does not fit them right. Or, they may not be mature enough to sit in a booster seat. Try going back to a harness seat.

Instead of going to a seatbelt too soon, try a backless booster seat. Your child may be more willing to sit in one.

Teach children to ride safely

- Make your child ride in their car or booster seat on every trip. If you let them ride unbuckled once, they will always want to ride this way. Short rides are just as risky as long ones.
- If your child tries to wiggle out of the car seat, stop the car in a safe place and check the harness straps. Tell them the car will not move until he or she stays buckled.
- Use positive reinforcement. Reward your child when they ride correctly in their car or booster seat for the entire trip.
- Always buckle up. Be a good role model. When your child is riding with others, be sure they are buckled up on every ride. You should always wear your seat belt.
- Give your child things to do. If it is hard to put your child into their car seat, give them a toy, tell a story or sing a song while they get buckled. Use activities to keep them occupied for the trip.
- Stop often on long car trips to get out of the car seat to stretch and move.



Proper fit is the key to safety.

